

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-14 DRC-01

OC-06 CCO-00 USPS-02 /150 W  
----- 092795

R 100200Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2196

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 0657

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE AGAIN SUBJECT  
TO DELAY BY UNION DISPUTE.

1. AMALGAMATED POSTAL WORKERS UNION (APWU), STARTING  
JUNE 1, HAS IMPOSED BAN ON OVERTIME WORK BY ITS 20,000  
MEMBERS SERVING EVERY POST OFFICE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.  
AT ISSUE IS REDUCTION IN BASIC WORK WEEK FROM 40 HOURS  
TO 36 AND THREE QUARTER HOURS PLUS A\$30.00 PER WEEK  
FOR WHOLE INDUSTRY AND A\$4.50 PER WEEK FOR LETTER  
CARRIERS.

2. APWU ACTION HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY UNION OF POSTAL  
CLERKS AND TELEGRAPHISTS (UPCT), WHO HAVE ISSUED  
CALL TO ITS 5,000 MEMBERS FOR ONE DAY STRIKE DURING  
WEEK OF JUNE 10. UPCT HAS DEMAND OF ITS OWN, CALLING  
FOR 16.5 PER CENT PAY RISE. UPCT WILL PROBABLY CALL  
FURTHER STRIKES.

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3. SYDNEY, IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, HAS UNDERGONE

48 HOUR STRIKE, JUNE 6-7, AFFECTING POSTAL DELIVERIES  
IN CITY.

4. ALL MAIL DELIVERIES, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL,  
ARE NOW SUBJECT TO INTERMITTANT DELAY. INEVITABLY,  
APL MAIL MAY BE AFFECTED AS IT IS HANDLED BY POST  
OFFICE PERSONNEL DURING DISTRIBUTION AFTER ARRIVAL.  
DURATION OF WORK INTERRUPTIONS WILL BE PROTRACTED.

4. COMMENT: APWU ESSENTIALLY IS SEEKING PARITY WITH  
SO-CALLED POST OFFICE COUNTER STAFF WHO WERE GRANTED  
SHORTER WORK WEEK FOUR YEARS AGO. POSTMASTER GENERAL  
LIONEL BOWEN HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY WHITE COLLAR  
UNION REPRESENTING COUNTER STAFF FOR HIS "FAILURE  
TO HANDLE" INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WITHIN POST OFFICE.  
BOWEN IN TURN HAS REBUKED PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
FOR SAME SORT OF FAILURE. FACT IS THAT PUBLIC SERVICE  
SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA IS TOO INFLEXIBLE TO MEET RAPIDLY  
CHANGING ECONOMIC FACTORS. IN EFFECT BOWEN HAS  
RESPONSIBILITY RUN POST OFFICE SERVICE BUT WITHOUT  
AUTHORITY TO SET WAGES. BOWEN'S SOLUTION, TO  
WITHDRAW POST OFFICE FROM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
CONTROL AND TO SET UP AS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE, WILL  
HAVE FAMILIAR RING FOR END USERS.  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, POSTAL SERVICE, LABOR DISPUTES, LABOR STRIKES, EMPLOYMENT HOURS, WAGE RATES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MELBOU00657  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740148-0132  
**From:** MELBOURNE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE AGAIN SUBJECT TO DELAY BY UNION DISPUTE.  
**TAGS:** ELAB, AS, APWU, AMALGAMATED POSTAL WORKERS UNION, UPCT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005